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STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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Our mission is to manage the State's marine fishery resources through research, enforcement, and education for the maximum benefit of the resources and the citizens of Alabama.



M. Scott Bannon
Director
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

June 28, 2021

Dear Valued Commercial Seafood Related Business:

The Alabama Marine Resources Division (AMRD) of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) was recently authorized to begin receiving applications for a second round of funding available under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to support activities previously authorized under Section 12005 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)* to eligible participants. This program was developed to assist Alabama in overcoming economic losses in its marine fishing industry. Those engaged in commercial fishing, seafood processing, non-retail seafood dealers, live-bait dealers, oyster aquaculture, seafood aquaculture and commercial party boats (charter for-hire) are encouraged to apply.

In order to be eligible for the reimbursement program, qualifying fishery-related businesses must have experienced revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020), greater than 35% as compared to their average revenue, for the same time period, earned in the preceding five years (2015-2019). Applicants must have been in business in 2019. Only Alabama residents that are licensed as: saltwater commercial fishermen (i.e., those that possess licenses for fishing, taking/catching of oysters, taking/carrying shrimp, gill net fishing, and "crab catching"), seafood or oyster aquaculture operators, non-retail seafood dealers or processors, live-bait dealers, or for-hire vessel owners/operators are eligible to participate in the program. These individuals and businesses must be able to substantiate their income reduction and complete the application process which includes a Self-Certification and Assurances affidavit adapted by AMRD. Applicants holding more than one eligible license may submit an application by individual license or in aggregate.

The available federal allocation to Alabama participants is **\$2,948,417.00**. Due to the limited amount of funding, the combined need of eligible applicants in our state may far exceed the funds available for disbursement. Therefore, the proportion of funds available to each applicant will be determined once all applications are reviewed.

All interested parties must submit an application available at <https://www.outdooralabama.com/CARES-ACT>
Please review the requirements carefully to determine whether or not you or your business meet the minimum requirements. Your completed application; signed and notarized affidavit, along with supporting documentation for damages/losses incurred must be returned to the **MRD Gulf Shores office with a postmark date no later than Friday, August 6, 2021** to be considered for review. It is recommended that application

packages be sent via registered mail with a delivery confirmation. MRD will not be responsible for lost or late application packages. Hand delivered applications will **ONLY** be accepted at the Gulf Shores office and they must be delivered no later than 5:00 P.M. August 6, 2021. Electronic copies of applications will **NOT** be accepted.

If your CARES Act Round 1 application submitted to AMRD was approved and you received an award payment you may be eligible for an additional payment from these funds. You may apply in one of two ways.

1. You may request MRD re-submit your initial Round 1 application without any additional damage assessment. MRD will use the same method for calculating Round 2 disbursements as in Round 1 but the disbursements will be based on the latest number of applicants and total of damages requested. The attached resubmission request form, as well as a newly signed affidavit and self-certification form, must be completed, notarized and returned to AMRD by the deadline.
2. You may submit a new CARES-2 application and include your damage calculation based on the longer time period for eligible losses.

Total payments of any assistance may not total more than 100% of your damage determination or your average annual revenue from the previous 5-year period.

AMRD will review applications for eligibility and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) will dispense payments and an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099MISC to award recipients. Please be aware that funds received from this program are subject to any applicable state and federal tax obligations. Furthermore, auditors are expected to audit records of those who receive awards, and as such, all documentation/records must be retained for no less than three (3) years after the close of the Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission grant. Feel free to contact me at (251) 861-2882 if you have questions concerning this application. Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



M. Scott Bannon, Director
Alabama Marine Resources Division